



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: July 30, 2008

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Police Require Fuel Conservation Measures

In an effort to cut back on fuel consumption due to rising costs, the police department is announcing mandatory conservation measures, effective Aug. 1.

“Reducing our use of fuel is the responsibility of all members who operate a county vehicle,” said Police Chief William McMahon. “Of course, this mandate is not intended to impact the performance of employees’ assigned duties.”

All employees were instructed to reduce their fuel consumption by five percent. A three-month baseline average was provided to each employee with an expectation that reductions would be evident by Sept. 1.

McMahon says he expects the reductions to come from less off-duty use, more fuel-conscious driving behavior and other common sense conservation methods.

“Service to our citizens is our absolute top priority,” McMahon said. “In no way will we allow these cost-cutting measures to negatively impact service.”

Employees who do not achieve the five percent reduction in any month will be required to explain why the goal was not met.

The chief also announced changes for employees who serve in certain on-call assignments, including a discontinuation of take-home cars for some out-of-county personnel. These programs will continue, but may no longer include take-home cars for all the people who staff them.

In this situation, employees who are called out will be paid the current mileage rate for the distance between their residences and police vehicles, as well as the return trips home.

Police will place limitations on assigning additional vehicles to employees who reside outside of Howard County, regardless of assignment. There also will be new restrictions placed on vehicle usage for police supervisors, such as sergeants and lieutenants.

Operators of shared patrol cars are expected to take part in the fuel reduction efforts by limiting idling time to operational needs, avoiding unnecessary driving and improving driving behaviors while operating in non-emergency modes.

These mandates are the first fuel saving measures being implemented by the police department. While further actions and restrictions may be necessary, the agency is committed to not sacrificing the service it provides to the public.

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